

2014 Clean Water Indiana Grant



The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. The financial assistance supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs.

The CWI fund is administered by the Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board. The CWI Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects through Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. CWI also contributes critical state matching funds for Indiana's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, an initiative which utilizes federal funds to encourage landowners to conserve environmentally sensitive land.

Furthermore, the CWI Program has supported the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative which focuses on management systems approach to crop production which results in improved soil and water quality as well as profitability on Indiana cropland.

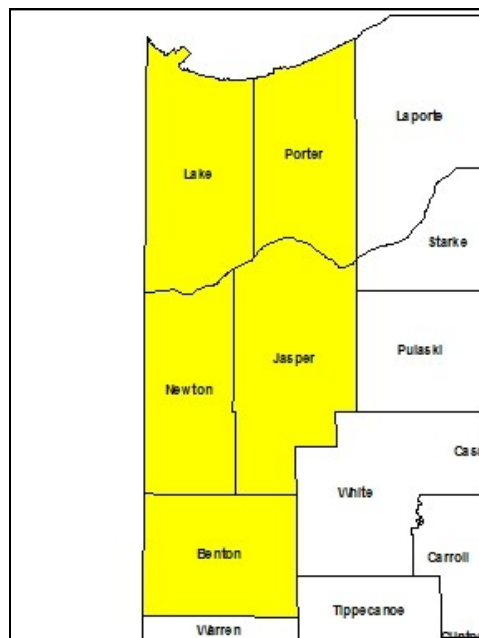
During state fiscal year 2014, the State Soil Conservation Board awarded 12 Clean Water Indiana grants totaling \$724,000. Grant funds can be used for Cost Share Incentives, Technical Assistance, and Adult Education (maximum of \$1,000 per year).

LEAD DISTRICT: JASPER
COLLABORATING DISTRICTS: BENTON, LAKE,
NEWTON, PORTER
PROJECT NAME: FACILITATING HIGH CLEARANCE
SEEDING OF COVER CROP IN NW INDIANA
PROJECT DATES: 1/1/2014-12/31/2016



Purpose: Educate, incentivize, and document use of cover crops in NW Indiana

Implement a program that educates, incentivizes, and documents the use of a high clearance sprayer (HCS) to seed cover crops in NW Indiana. Several barriers to cover crop adoption in NW Indiana exist, including "lack of time between harvest and winter" and "airplane application is too variable, especially in soybeans, puts seed in my neighbor's fields, lack of cover crops on end rows (highly compacted areas), along field edges and smaller fields," and "desire for another tool to seed cover crops pre-harvest to ensure timely application and establishment." A HCS addresses these issues, but no co-op/custom applicators services this area with such a tool, despite several in use around the state. Hence, the need to educate, document and incentivize the use of this cover crop seeding method for NW Indiana. The end goal is to have HCSs in this area. This will result in greater cover crop use and adoption, which will address non-point pollution by improving soil quality and addressing water quality impairments by reducing soil erosion and sediment and nutrient loading to the Iroquois and Kankakee Rivers.



PARTNERS FOR THE PROJECT INCLUDE:
BENTON, JASPER, LAKE, NEWTON AND
PORTER COUNTY PURDUE EXTENSION
OFFICES, NRCS, CUSTOM APPLICATORS
AND CCSI.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts will each host a field day to educate farmers with the help of demonstration plots.

